

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 136

By White D

A RESOLUTION to recognize and commend Rick Insell upon his induction into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should specially honor those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts in athletics as coaches, have distinguished themselves as legends in the annals of Tennessee's basketball history and beyond; and

WHEREAS, one such exemplary individual is Rick Insell, head coach of the Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) women's basketball team, who is an inductee into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame Class of 2017; and

WHEREAS, the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame is the only institution of its kind dedicated to recognizing all levels of women's basketball; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Insell is one of six persons to be inducted into the 2017 Class; he will join an esteemed group that includes such talented peers as Sally Bell, Christine Grant, Louise O'Neal, Sheryl Swoopes, and Kara Wolters. Together, they will make up the Hall of Fame's nineteenth class, bringing the organization's total number of honorees to 157; and

WHEREAS, Rick Insell will be only the fourth coach from MTSU to be inducted into a national hall of fame, joining the ranks of Boots Donnelly in the College Football Hall of Fame, Dean Hayes in the United States Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association, and Steve Peterson in the American Baseball Coaches Association; and

WHEREAS, this induction is but one of many similar honors that Coach Insell has received; he has been enshrined into the National High School Hall of Fame, the Tennessee

Sports Hall of Fame, the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Hall of Fame, the Naismith Memorial Hall of Fame, and the *Cannon Courier* Sports Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, for forty years, Rick Insell has enjoyed an almost unparalleled level of success, spanning across twenty-eight years coaching high school and twelve years at the college level. He has a career record of 1,067 wins to 243 losses. Mr. Insell is one of only five coaches nationally to average twenty-five wins per season with a minimum of ten years as a head coach, and he is ninth among active Division I coaches for winning percentage with a .765 clip; and

WHEREAS, as coach at MTSU, Rick Insell has led his teams to win twenty or more games in each of his eleven previous seasons, and he has guided the Lady Raiders into a postseason tournament in each season as well. They have reached nine NCAA Tournaments and two WNIT events. During his tenure, the Lady Raiders have won fifteen conference championships, including eight regular season and seven tournament championships; and

WHEREAS, Coach Insell and the MTSU Lady Raiders have enjoyed 292 wins during his tenure, which makes him the university's all-time winningest coach; and

WHEREAS, his remarkable tenure at MTSU was built from an even grander tenure at Shelbyville Central High School, where Rick Insell had a win-loss record of 775-149 over his twenty-eight-year career. Shelbyville Central holds the state records for consecutive wins at 110 victories, consecutive state titles with four, and the most Class AAA state championships with ten, finishing runner-up five times; and

WHEREAS, Rick Insell, as a man of true character and commitment, exemplifies the type of selfless community servant and civic leader whom fellow Tennesseans admire for his tireless efforts to mentor the State's athletes, guiding them with solid principles and high standards; and

WHEREAS, Rick Insell is an extraordinary Tennessean and a coaching genius who has earned the unbridled respect of his players, fans, and opponents alike, and it is fitting that his unparalleled legacy shall be woven into the storied tapestry of fellow coaches, players, and luminaries honored in the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby recognize and commend Rick Insell upon his induction into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame and extend to him our best wishes for success in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.